

(b) *Bias musicus changamwensis* van Someren, 1919: Changamwe, near Mombasa, coastal Kenya.

Female and young male in freshly moulted condition barely paler on the upperparts, but sepia streaking restricted to the lower hind neck and upper mantle, the lower mantle and scapulars plain Amber Brown. On underside, with the lower throat and breast less invaded with Ochraceous-Tawny, the ventral surface appearing paler. Size smaller. Wings of 10 ♂♂♀♀ 82–88 (84.9) mm. (coastal birds smaller than interior plateau specimens in this taxon: wings 82–85, as against 86.5–88 mm.).

Range: Eastern Uganda, Kenya (Highlands and coast), and Tanzania (not extreme west).

(c) *Bias musicus clarens* Clancey, 1966: Massinga, Sul do Save, southern Moçambique.

Like *B. m. changamwensis* on the upperparts in females and young males in pre-basic dress, but underside white, not pale buff, only the sides of the breast and lateral surfaces with some tawny overlay; malar streak almost white, and head-top matt black, and not sooty brown. Size the same. Wings of 10 ♂♂♀♀ 81.5–85.5 (83.9) mm.

Range: Moçambique, southern Malawi, and south-eastern Rhodesia. Northern range limits not known.

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A new race of Wailing Cisticola *Cisticola lais* (Finsch and Hartlaub), from Gorongoza Mountain, Moçambique

by MICHAEL P. STUART IRWIN

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The population of the Wailing Cisticola *Cisticola lais* (Finsch and Hartlaub) occurring on Gorongoza Mountain, from whence it was first reported by Rosa Pinto (*Ostrich Supplement* 3, 1959: 114–115), is apparently confined to the region above the forest line from about 5,500 feet A.S.L. to the summit at just over 6,100 feet. Below the forest line up to 4,000 feet its place is taken by the Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans muenzneri* Reichenow, though Rosa Pinto does mention it as low as 3,000

feet. It is consequently restricted to a very limited area of the high central plateau occupying a range of probably considerably under 20 square miles, consisting of boggy montane grassland and meadow with abundant *Cyperaceae*, broken by rocky pinnacles and forest patches comprising *Podocarpus* and *Widdringtonia*, with scattered *Protea* and tall *Philippia* scrub. The geographical and biological isolation of this high zone is absolute, the nearest comparable suitable habitat from whence it is known being in the Inyanga highlands of eastern Rhodesia, the eastern 5,000 feet contour of which lies more than 70 miles to the west; the intervening country of the Manica platform averaging around 1,000 feet (Wellington, *Southern Africa, a geographical study*, 1, 1955; 40, fig. IV) and largely dominated by *Brachystegia* woodland. The species, however, may well also occur in the highlands west of Vila Gouveia, within Moçambique, faunally part of Rhodesia, where the intervening gap is no less great.

All previous material collected on the mountain that has been available, comprising some nine specimens obtained in the months of July, September and early October, are in non-breeding dress. However, in December, 1965, during an expedition undertaken by the National Museums of Rhodesia, six specimens were collected in freshly moulted breeding dress. When these are compared with similar material of *C. l. mashona* Lynes of eastern Rhodesia, and *C. l. semifasciata* Reichenow from the highlands in Malawi, eastern Zambia and southern Tanzania, it is immediately apparent that they represent an undescribed subspecies for which I propose the name of:

Cisticola lais oreobates subsp. nov.

Type: ♂ adult, from the montane zone at 6,000 feet on Gorongosa Mountain, near the peak of Monte Gogogo at 18° 26' S., 34° 02' E., 9th December, 1965. Collected by D. G. Broadley and party. Collectors No. GZA/134. National Museum registration No. 58,646. In the collection of the National Museum of Rhodesia, Bulawayo.

Description: In breeding dress differs from *C. l. mashona* in having the crown darker, less richly chestnut, streaking of mantle blacker with the feather margins more blackish-grey, less tawny. Below cold greyish-white without any infusion of buff as in the corresponding dress of *mashona*. In the tone of the back it bears a closer resemblance to *C. l. semifasciata*, though even blacker, and without the mottled crown. Below altogether different in the pale underparts compared to the tawny buff of *semifasciata* in breeding dress. In non-breeding dress the crown appears slightly brighter, but less chestnut than in *mashona*, the remainder of the upperparts being indistinguishable and below similar. Likewise from *semifasciata* the crown is a darker and richer brown, mantle with feather margins darker, more greyish-brown and much less tawny-buff below. Measurements in breeding dress 3 ♂♂ wing 58; tail 53–54; culmen 13–14; 3 ♀♀ wing 50–51; tail 48–49; culmen 12–12.5 mm. The four sexed individuals in non-breeding dress fall within the above general limits.

Material examined: 3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ in breeding dress, 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ and 5 unsexed specimens in non-breeding dress collected in July (5), September (2) and October (2).

Range: The central plateau of the Gorongosa massif above 5,500 feet, Moçambique.

Measurement of the type: Wing (flattened) 58; tail 54; culmen (from base) 14 mm.

Remarks: The type and paratypes in breeding dress have the mantle and underparts freshly moulted, but with the rectrices heavily worn and in various stages of replacement. The birds themselves were coming on to breed, the females with the ovaries enlarging and the testes in one male measuring as much as 5 x 4 mm. on the 7th of December, the balance of the series being obtained on the 9th.

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A new subspecies of the Yellow-bellied Whistler
Pachycephala philippinensis

by KENNETH C. PARKES

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Geographic variation in the endemic Philippine whistler *Pachycephala philippinensis* has recently been reviewed by Rand and Rabor (*Fieldiana: Zoology*, 35, 1960, pp. 433–434). They admitted six subspecies. Most specimens I have examined accord well with their findings, but one subspecies, *P. p. apoensis* (Mearns) calls for comment. Rand and Rabor gave the range of this form as follows: "Samar, Leyte, Dinagat, Bohol, and Mindanao west to Mount Malindang on northeastern Zamboanga." They stated that *P. p. basilanica* (Mearns) intergrades with *apoensis* in western Zamboanga. Specimens I have examined from Mount Malindang confirm this intergradation, being paler below and browner on the crown than topotypical *apoensis*, an obvious approach to *basilaniac*. Within the range now ascribed to *apoensis*, there is much variation in colour. The darkest birds seen are those from Mount Katanglad, Mindanao, and the palest those from Bohol. Specimens from Samar and Leyte are especially variable, some reaching almost the extremes in coloration displayed by the dark Katanglad and pale Bohol birds. Only the sample from the latter island appears to be consistent in its characters, and worthy of separation as an additional named subspecies, which may be called

Pachycephala philippinensis boholensis, subsp. nov.

Type: Field Museum of Natural History no. 223599, adult male, collected at Cantaub, Sierra Bullones, Bohol Island, Philippines, 4th May, 1955, by D. S. Rabor (collector's no. 10101).

Characters: nearest *apoensis* (as typified by specimens from Mount Apo, Davao, Mindanao and vicinity), but yellow of underparts paler, more mixed with white; green of back slightly paler; six outer primaries (not